

From: [Michael Mekelburg](#)
To: [Mark D. Napier](#)
Subject: Re: questions for article
Date: Tuesday, October 24, 2017 15:53:46
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Ok, thank you, Sheriff

On Tue, Oct 24, 2017 at 3:32 PM, Mark D. Napier <Mark.Napier@sheriff.pima.gov> wrote:

Mike,

In general terms that is correct.

When we, in the normal course of our duties, come in contact with someone we believe to be in this country without proper documentation we do turn the person over to USBP. They then make the determination if any federal laws with respect to immigration status have been violated. We do not proactively enforce immigration laws.

With respect to the opioid question, I am not sure if that is tracked. Sometimes, if not most of the time, we would not know the source of the drugs ingested that caused the overdose. We believe that it is possible a significant percentage would be from black market labs, as opposed to misused prescription opioid class drugs.

I hope this information helps.



Mark D. Napier

Sheriff

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From: Michael Mekelburg [mailto:]

Sent: Tuesday, October 24, 2017 3:00 PM

To: Mark D. Napier <Mark.Napier@sheriff.pima.gov>

Subject: questions for article

Sheriff Napier,

I have a few more follow up questions for the humanitarian aid article I'm researching.

The first has to do with the pesky Women Act Now group I'm something of a member of. In a recent meeting with the local Samaritans and No More Deaths folks, the topic of conversation turned once again to deputies handing undocumented subjects over to USBP. I voiced the opinion that deputies, after making contact with someone they determine to be undocumented in the normal course of their duties, are mandated to contact USBP and turn the person/s over. Everyone in the room said in unison, "They're not mandated." You had mentioned to us that it is USBP's mandate to determine citizenship status (and not PCSD's), but does that mean deputies are actually required to turn over to agents someone they find to be undocumented? Is there any room for deputy discretion in such cases? What would need to happen to see a reversal in the turn-over policy?

Along the same lines, it is my understanding that the people being turned over by deputies are not Ajo residents, but rather migrants who are either northbound and in medical distress or southbound and looking for a ride back to the border -- any other migrant/s simply would not be in the Ajo area, according to my research. Do you find this to be accurate?

A side story I'm working on involves the opioid epidemic. Would you have any numbers as to how many of the overdose deaths attributed to opioids (6000 in the U.S. in the last 2.5 months) are due to legal and clandestine labs in the U.S. as compared to drugs coming across the southwest border? A former doctor and medical director at the Ajo clinic stated that most of the hard drugs coming across the border are now being laced with fentanyl, which, she feels, may account for a large percentage of the ODs. Can you comment on that?

Thanks again for your time, Sheriff. I do value your input. Mike

